

Mr. Speaker, many people from across the United States and across the globe have taken note of the contributions of Luis Ferré and his life of public service on the islands of Puerto Rico. Most notably, former President George H.W. Bush awarded Ferré with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991, the highest government award a civilian can receive. Ferré is one of four Puerto Ricans to receive this Presidential honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the people of Puerto Rico and I am pleased that this body is honoring a great American and a great Puerto Rican. I extend my condolences to Luis Ferré's family and to all the people of Puerto Rico who cherished this man and his contributions.

COUNTER-TERRORIST AND NARCO-TERRORIST REWARDS PROGRAM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act, H.R. 3782 seeks to expand the reward tools needed to encourage informants with data to come forward and help prevent or resolve acts of international terrorism against U.S. citizens and property throughout the world. Rewards also can be paid for information leading to the arrest or conviction of terrorists who attempt, commit, conspire, or aid and abet terrorist acts. Informants with the knowledge of a location or the identification of terrorist leaders can also be rewarded.

Secretary of State Powell has authorized a reward of up to \$25 million for information leading to the capture of bin Laden and other key al Qaeda leaders, under the provisions of the USA Patriot Act of 2001. That act specifically authorizes the Secretary of State to offer and pay rewards of greater than \$5 million if it is determined that a greater amount is necessary to combat terrorism or to defend the United States against terrorist acts. As we approach the fourth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States, it is clear that a greater amount is necessary to entice informants and that the reward program must be publicized widely.

An especially important component of the bill would publicize the existence of the rewards program. The measure would provide additional authority to buy radio, television and newspaper advertisements to publicize the rewards program. It also would change the name of the program from the Rewards for Justice Program to the Terrorism and Narco-Terrorism Rewards Program.

The rewards incentives work. Twenty-nine people whom provided credible information that put terrorists behind bars or prevented acts of international terrorism worldwide have been rewarded with a total of more than \$49 million over the last seven years by the United States. Reward incentives played a significant role in the arrest and conviction of terrorist Ramzi Yousef, for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

This bill would also empower the Secretary of State to make rewards in any combination

of money and non-monetary instruments, including automobiles. This provision is important because people who have specific knowledge about perpetrators or their acts of terrorism may more highly value material objects, like a new tractor for their farm. The bill would also expand the eligibility criteria of informants seeking to receive a reward.

The bill would increase the maximum amount that can be paid by the Department of State for information and assistance. The maximum amount of a reward increases from \$5 million to a maximum of \$25 million and the Secretary of State may further authorize a reward of up to \$50 million for the capture of or information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden.

The bill clarifies that any information that disrupts terrorist financing networks, including information related to illicit narcotics production or international trafficking, is eligible for reward. The money laundering information does not need to be tied to a specific act of terrorism. This is particularly important, because we face threats in our own hemisphere from narco-terrorists. The common denominator for each of the many threats, however, is their funding stream. Being able to seize terrorist money has an immediate impact on their ability to conduct their horrific operations. Compensating an informant for financial information is just as vital as learning of the whereabouts of a particular actor.

The provisions in this bill dramatically improve the power of the tools available to the Department of State and law enforcement agencies to attract and compensate knowledgeable informants. We can't hope to place undercover operatives into the places where terrorist and narco-terrorist leaders plan their deeds. The advanced warning of an attack and the corresponding pre-event interdiction is priceless. Therefore, a reward is easily justified.

ON THE LOSS OF A GREAT AMERICAN, JEFF SCHROCK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a great American: Jeff Schrock.

Jeff died last month after battling brain cancer. Sadly, he leaves behind a loving wife, Cass, and two doting children, Jenny and Max.

I pay tribute to him as a fallen hero. Why? Because this was a man who represented the best of what America is—a loving husband, a good father, a solid citizen. Jeff Schrock and all the "Jeff Schrocks" of the world are what makes this a great country, are the kind of person that forms the intricate fabric that binds us as a Nation, are the unsung heroes who serve as the massive middle class that exemplifies the American nature at its best.

I loved Jeff. He was as generous a soul as one could hope to meet. His love of the outdoors and business acumen came together in a well-known business that he owned and which became a beach-front institution in Monterey: Monterey Bay Kayaks. At his kayak shop he patiently taught people to explore and enjoy the ocean, up close and personal. And

for someone like me, he rarely giggled when I squeezed into a full-body wet suit and ringed my waist with a rubber spray skirt. I will miss my friend, the gentleman with such aplomb and discretion!

It is sad to lose anyone so close. I want you to know how much I respected and admired Jeff and looked up to him. He was an American hero. He lived a life that bespoke the best of husbands and fathers everywhere. The dedication he showed to his family, the sense of community he exhibited in the way he ran his business, the daily comings-and-goings of Jeff Schrock, Everyman, is how we all ought to live our lives. Why? Because the end result is a life of integrity and honor, a life of quiet determination, and a life full of love. It is the hallmark of how the core principles of American life are manifested in our Nation. Jeff, in his way, knew this and revealed in it. He chose to be a leader for his family by showing compassion and generosity. He chose to be a leader by introducing his business associates to the wonders of economic profits through environmental preservation. He chose to be a leader by getting involved in community issues. He was a beacon for all of us, and those who follow his lead, will be part and parcel of a stronger America, as Jeff truly was.

Mr. Speaker, I miss my friend Jeff Schrock. I lament the death of the fellow who helped me squeeze into a kayak and who opened, so for many of us, an amazing Window to the wonders of Monterey Bay and our world's oceans. I share the grief of his wife and children. But above all, I honor the role model he was and will be for those he left behind.

HONORING LARRY AND JEAN ELLIOTT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple from my district, Larry and Jean Elliott, whose lives tragically ended in Iraq this week.

In life and death, the Elliots saw service as God's calling. Missionaries for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, they intermittently stayed at the mission house of First Baptist Church in Cary when they were in North Carolina. Long stationed in Honduras, they were watching CNN one day when they saw a broadcast of an Iraqi man pulling dirty water from a hang-dug well. It was a scene that struck a chord with Larry. In Honduras, he and Jean had spent years building schools, developing water purification systems to provide fresh water to rural residents, coordinating visits by medical and dental teams from the U.S., and translating for other relief workers. They knew the importance of taking care of basic human needs as a ministry of compassion and sacrifice.

Larry and Jean were not deterred by the dangers of Iraq, and they went without hesitation. A friend said their courage stemmed from a sense of peace and a belief that their destiny was in God's hands.

They were scouting the best location for their water purification project when they became casualties of the war: they were killed in a drive-by shooting in Mosul on March 15. It